are made on the recommendations of the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB). Government nominee Directors are appointed on *ex-officio* basis by the administrative Ministries/Departments and non-official Directors are selected in consultation with PESB. There is no reservation in appointments to Board level posts, and therefore the information in this regard is not Centrally maintained.

Production of salt from Sambhar Lake

77. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the production of salt from the Sambhar Lake water in Rajasthan during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the percentage and actual fall in the production of salt from the Sambhar Lake water during the year 2001-02 and as on the date;

(c) the reasons for the shortfall; and

(d) the steps contemplated by Government to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SUBODH MOHITE): (a) Sambhar Salts Ltd. (SSL), produces salt from Sambhar Lake water and sub-soil brine from lake bed. The production of SSL for last three years from both sources is an under:-

(Production in lakhs MT)

2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
1.06	1.40	1.19

(b) Production of salt during 2001-02 was higher as compared to the previous year, but fell by 15% in 2002-03.

(c) The reasons for short fall in 2002-03, *inter-alia* include successive drought condition and obstruction in free-flow of water into the lake from catchment area due to construction of anicuts and dams on rivulets, tributaries and rivers leading to the Sambhar Lake and development of private salt manufacturing on the outskirts of lake boundaries.

(d) The company proposes to dig bore-wells and surface-wells to improve the production of salt. It has also approached the Government of Rajasthan for maintaining free flow of water to the lake.

Crisis of CAS

78. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether keeping in view the ongoing crisis over CAS and lack of proper information regarding the rate to be charged for pay channels by the cable operators and the provision of set top box, Government have since kept implementation of CAS in abeyance;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether Government propose to hold discussions with the consumer activists and cable operators so as to arrive at an amicable settlement for implementation of CAS; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (d) After monitoring the preparedness of stakeholders to introduce addressability and after extensive discussions with various stakeholders, namely Broadcasters, Multi System Operators, Cable Operators, Consumer Groups, etc., it has been decided to rollout the CAS in a zonal phased manner, in the metros of Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata and in the Chennai Metropolitan area, w.e.f. 1.9.2003. The notification issued on 10th July, 2003 to this effect is available in the Ministry's website, www.mib.nic.in. The intervening period will be utilized to step up preparedness for smooth roll out of CAS and for educating the subscribers.

Long term action plan for development of film industry

79. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any long term action plan for all round development of the film industry in the country;